Rec'd May 10th
Ans — 11

Santa Barbara

April 29th 1876

My dear uncle

The season of fog, of congressional elections, platforms and consequent legislative virtue which saws at the spicket & lets out at the bung remanded me to this loveliest of lovely spots to make my computations & my report.

In pursuance of the model retrenchment policy inaugurated in Washington I went to San Francisco to discharge my men & to settle my accounts, & to see my friends and their spring bonnets on Easter Sunday. It is but lately that I returned and therefore your letter of the 9th has remained unanswered like all others which I found on my return.

Let me first unburden my mind about that wretched Phyllospadix. Sash

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month I was encamped at Scorpion Harbor Santa Cruz Island & found plenty of the sea grass of which you now have a specimen. It was without flower for the month was the same in which my specimens was gathered 2 years ago. Floating in deep water & occasionally on the beach I found fragments of the Phyllospadix, but never a complete stem & leaf. those torn leaves which I found must have been torn up with large bunches of Kelp & then became seperated. I have never seen it growing in the water & believe that the shore of the islands is too exposed to rough seas to allow it to grow in accessible depths, nowhere in fact down here, except in the friendly shelter of the Kelp.

And now as regards the oaks, I believe since you give its hight as from 5-8 feet that I have classified and appreciated it

many a time as "cussed" chaparral & I will do my best to procure you the desired specimen from the Tahiguas Ranch about 30 miles from here. The oak which grows on the mesa near the town & in it must be familiar to botanists.

Would you like some seeds of the Yucca plant & do you know the tree which is called by the vulgar Malva tree? It grows in gardens here, wild on San Miguel Island & I have seen it ith San Francisco & Angel Island in S.F. Bay.

By the way uncle Eugene Hilgard had just returned from a short botanizing expedition when last I saw him & he may be able to give you "points" as they say in stock board.

Enclosed is a slip from to days local paper and a photograph for which there is no sale here.

With my affectionate regards to aunt

I remain

Yours Truly

C. H. Tittmann

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Rec July 1st

Santa Barbara
June 22nd 76

Hly Dear uncle,

Your facetious
letter in reference to to my
little mistake was duly
received. But the consciousness
of having anticipated your
comments by forwarding another
specimen of oak relieved me
somewhat from the imputation
of not Knowing an acorn
from a cherry. As for my
"liberal" education the less
said the better. But if you
will address a few questions
to me on the subject of
Topography, hydrography or

geodesic operations you may find my acquirments more creditable.

It will give me great pleasure to forward the ripe berries as soon as I find time to leave the town for a day.

Enclosed I send you a photograph which may put the sickly cacti in your pots, to the blush

Remember me kindly to your folks

Very truly

O. A. Fitzpatrick

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